

College Access Standards for Student Success



**Arizona College Access Network
Student Standards Task Force**

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The Arizona College Access Network (AzCAN) has established comprehensive college access and success standards and competencies critical to student success. The College Access Standards for Student Success (Standards) include the areas of college planning and youth development along the PreK-16 continuum necessary to prepare all students to be college and career ready. These Standards are intended to be utilized by college access programs and school educators to improve the effectiveness of programs and services.

Standard 1: Participants will gain awareness and build aspirations about college and careers

Competencies -

- 1.1 Understand the purpose of postsecondary education and the career and economic opportunities offered in order to build strong aspirations
- 1.2 Understand the different types of postsecondary education pathways and the career opportunities embedded within each pathway
- 1.3 Learn about and gain exposure to college campuses, college programs and activities
- 1.4 Develop an awareness of personal abilities, skills, interests and motivations
- 1.5 Explore careers and develop competency in areas of interest
- 1.6 Understand how changing economic and societal needs influence employment trends and future training
- 1.7 Understand the relationship between educational achievement and social, economic, and societal benefits
- 1.8 Demonstrate an understanding of the value of lifelong learning as essential to life goals
- 1.9 Establish personal, career and complementary postsecondary educational goals

Standard 2: Participants will acquire the college knowledge and skills necessary to successfully transition into postsecondary education pathways

Competencies -

- 2.1 Understand the value of college assessments (ACT, SAT, PSAT)
- 2.2 Have knowledge of college assessment preparation resources (test preparation)
- 2.3 Explore, identify and select colleges that would match participants' academic, career and personal goals
- 2.4 Understand the college admissions application process, potential majors, and course of study options

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- 2.5 Learn how participation in extra-curricular and leadership activities builds life skills and enhances college transition
- 2.6 Understand the difference between high school and college in regards to academic expectations and student life

Standard 3: Participants will understand the benefits of a rigorous academic foundation and academic behaviors essential to their preparation for postsecondary pathways

Competencies -

- 3.1 Learn about the benefits of rigorous academic courses and programs (such as AP, IB, honors, dual enrollment)
- 3.2 Learn about the academic requirements for postsecondary pathways
- 3.3 Monitor course selection and progress
- 3.4 Establish challenging academic goals and engage in academic supports as needed
- 3.5 Understand the relationship between educational achievement and academic behaviors in high school and success in college and career
- 3.6 Learn about perseverance, time management, organization skills and attention to detail as important to academic, life and career behaviors

Standard 4: Participants will understand the fundamentals of financial literacy and financial planning for postsecondary education

Competencies -

- 4.1 Learn about the basics of financial literacy as it relates to postsecondary education
- 4.2 Learn how extra-curricular and leadership activities build life skills and contribute to scholarship acquisition
- 4.3 Know the various financial aid and scholarship options for financing college
- 4.4 Demonstrate knowledge of the financial aid and scholarship application processes
- 4.5 Understand how to evaluate postsecondary options based on cost and value
- 4.6 Understand the cost/benefits of various postsecondary education options

Standard 5: Participants will understand the value of developing a comprehensive support system that leads to academic success

Competencies -

- 5.1 Understand how effective/positive family engagement contributes to academic success

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- 5.2 Be aware of the benefits of establishing a positive relationship with school faculty and staff to ensure academic progress
- 5.3 Recognize the value of accessing a knowledgeable school counselor, advisor or college access program for assistance in the postsecondary college planning process
- 5.4 Seek likeminded peers interested in postsecondary attainment
- 5.5 Understand the benefit of establishing a relationship with a caring adult/mentor to support their academic pursuits

Standard 6: Participants will recognize the importance of cultural, social-emotional factors that impact their academic experience

Competencies -

- 6.1 Recognize one's own values, attitudes and beliefs associated with ethnicity, gender, race, income and family backgrounds and how they impact the college choice
- 6.2 Identify personal strengths and assets necessary to overcome academic, financial and social barriers that impact postsecondary transition
- 6.3 Recognize that self-efficacy, positive self-concept and resiliency strengthen college going aspirations, behaviors, and beliefs

Standard 7: Enrolled participants will persist and successfully complete a postsecondary education program of study

Competencies -

- 7.1 Demonstrate awareness of and participate in summer bridge/transition programs
- 7.2 Understand the relationship between educational achievement in college and career success
- 7.3 Become knowledgeable about the academic supports and student involvement opportunities available on a college campus
- 7.4 Seek out career services for internships and future employment opportunities
- 7.5 Develop a greater understanding about the graduate school application process and future opportunities
- 7.6 Understand how to communicate with instructors to clarify or request assistance as needed
- 7.7 Find a balance between responsibilities such as work and school